



## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

### 40 CFR Part 52

[EPA-R04-OAR-2020-0676; FRL-8968-02-R4]

#### Air Plan Approval; South Carolina; Updates to Ambient Air Quality Standards

**AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

**ACTION:** Final rule.

**SUMMARY:** The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is approving a State Implementation Plan (SIP) revision submitted by the State of South Carolina, through the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SC DHEC), on April 24, 2020. The SIP revision approves a non-substantive formatting change and the removal of an outdated sentence regarding test methods for gaseous fluorides from South Carolina's ambient air quality standards regulation. EPA is finalizing approval of these changes pursuant to the Clean Air Act (CAA or Act) and implementing federal regulations.

**DATES:** This rule is effective [Insert date 30 days after date of publication in the FEDERAL REGISTER].

**ADDRESSES:** EPA has established a docket for this action under Docket Identification No. EPA-R04-OAR-2020-0676. All documents in the docket are listed on the [www.regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov) website. Although listed in the index, some information may not be publicly available, i.e., Confidential Business Information or other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute. Certain other material, such as copyrighted material, is not placed on the Internet and will be publicly available only in hard copy form. Publicly available docket materials are available either electronically through [www.regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov) or in hard copy at the Air Regulatory Management Section, Air Planning and Implementation Branch, Air and Radiation Division, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4, 61 Forsyth Street, SW, Atlanta, Georgia

30303-8960. EPA requests that if at all possible, you contact the person listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section to schedule your inspection. The Regional Office's official hours of business are Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., excluding Federal holidays.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Andres Febres, Air Regulatory Management Section, Air Planning and Implementation Branch, Air and Radiation Division, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4, 61 Forsyth Street, SW, Atlanta, Georgia 30303-8960. The telephone number is (404) 562-8966. Mr. Febres can also be reached via electronic mail at [febres-martinez.andres@epa.gov](mailto:febres-martinez.andres@epa.gov).

## **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

### **I. Background**

Through a letter dated April 24, 2020, SC DHEC requested approval of two changes to South Carolina's SIP-approved Regulation 61–62.5, Standard No. 2 – *Ambient Air Quality Standards*. First, SC DHEC updates the formatting of references to the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) by adding the word “Part” to CFR references in this regulation. This is a non-substantive, ministerial change. Second, SC DHEC removes a sentence referencing test methods for gaseous fluorides from this regulation.

On June 29, 2017 (82 FR 29414), EPA approved the removal of standards applicable to gaseous fluorides (as hydrogen fluoride) from South Carolina's SIP-approved Regulation 61–62.5, Standard No. 2 – *Ambient Air Quality Standards*. However, EPA's June 29, 2017, action did not remove the related language describing testing standards for gaseous fluorides that was contained in this same regulation.

In a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) published on May 27, 2021 (86 FR 28519), EPA proposed to approve the aforementioned changes to the South Carolina SIP. Comments on the May 27, 2021, NPRM were due on or before June 28, 2021. EPA did not receive any comments on the May 27, 2021 NPRM.

## II. Incorporation by Reference

In this document, EPA is finalizing regulatory text that includes incorporation by reference. In accordance with requirements of 1 CFR 51.5, EPA is finalizing the incorporation by reference of South Carolina's Regulation 61–62.5, Standard No. 2 – *Ambient Air Quality Standards*,<sup>1</sup> State effective April 24, 2020. EPA has made and will continue to make these materials generally available through [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) and at the EPA Region 4 Office (please contact the person identified in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section of this preamble for more information). Therefore, the revised materials, as stated above, have been approved by EPA for inclusion in the SIP, have been incorporated by reference by EPA into that plan, are fully federally enforceable under sections 110 and 113 of the CAA as of the effective date of the final rulemaking of EPA's approval, and will be incorporated by reference in the next update to the SIP compilation.<sup>1</sup>

## III. Final Action

EPA is finalizing approval of South Carolina's SIP revision to Regulation 61-62.5, Standard No. 2 – *Ambient Air Quality Standards*, with a State effective date of April 24, 2020. Through this final action, EPA is incorporating those revisions into the SIP. EPA has determined that the April 24, 2020, SIP revision meets the applicable requirements of sections 110 of the CAA and applicable regulatory requirements at 40 CFR part 51.

## IV. Statutory and Executive Order Reviews

Under the CAA, the Administrator is required to approve a SIP submission that complies with the provisions of the Act and applicable Federal regulations. *See* 42 U.S.C. 7410(k); 40 CFR 52.02(a). Thus, in reviewing SIP submissions, EPA's role is to approve state choices, provided that they meet the criteria of the CAA. This action merely approves state law as meeting Federal requirements and does not impose additional requirements beyond those imposed by state law. For that reason, this action:

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<sup>1</sup> *See* 62 FR 27968 (May 22, 1997).

- Is not a significant regulatory action subject to review by the Office of Management and Budget under Executive Orders 12866 (58 FR 51735, October 4, 1993) and 13563 (76 FR 3821, January 21, 2011);
- Does not impose an information collection burden under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*);
- Is certified as not having a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities under the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*);
- Does not contain any unfunded mandate or significantly or uniquely affect small governments, as described in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (Public Law 104-4);
- Does not have federalism implications as specified in Executive Order 13132 (64 FR 43255, August 10, 1999);
- Is not an economically significant regulatory action based on health or safety risks subject to Executive Order 13045 (62 FR 19885, April 23, 1997);
- Is not a significant regulatory action subject to Executive Order 13211 (66 FR 28355, May 22, 2001);
- Is not subject to requirements of Section 12(d) of the National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act of 1995 (15 U.S.C. 272 note) because application of those requirements would be inconsistent with the CAA; and
- Does not provide EPA with the discretionary authority to address, as appropriate, disproportionate human health or environmental effects, using practicable and legally permissible methods, under Executive Order 12898 (59 FR 7629, February 16, 1994).

The Congressional Review Act, 5 U.S.C. 801 *et seq.*, as added by the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996, generally provides that before a rule may take effect, the agency promulgating the rule must submit a rule report, which includes a copy of the rule, to each House of the Congress and to the Comptroller General of the United States. EPA

will submit a report containing this action and other required information to the U.S. Senate, the U.S. House of Representatives, and the Comptroller General of the United States prior to publication of the rule in the *Federal Register*. A major rule cannot take effect until 60 days after it is published in the *Federal Register*. This action is not a “major rule” as defined by 5 U.S.C. 804(2).

Under section 307(b)(1) of the CAA, petitions for judicial review of this action must be filed in the United States Court of Appeals for the appropriate circuit by **[insert date 60 days from date of publication in the FEDERAL REGISTER]**. Filing a petition for reconsideration by the Administrator of this final rule does not affect the finality of this action for the purposes of judicial review nor does it extend the time within which a petition for judicial review may be filed and shall not postpone the effectiveness of such rule or action. This action may not be challenged later in proceedings to enforce its requirements. *See* section CAA section 307(b)(2).

Because this final rule merely approves state law as meeting Federal requirements and does not impose additional requirements beyond those imposed by state law, this final rule for the State of South Carolina does not have Tribal implications as specified by Executive Order 13175 (65 FR 67249, November 9, 2000). Therefore, this action will not impose substantial direct costs on Tribal governments or preempt Tribal law. The Catawba Indian Nation (CIN) Reservation is located within the boundary of York County, South Carolina. Pursuant to the Catawba Indian Claims Settlement Act, S.C. Code Ann. 27-16-120 (Settlement Act), “all state and local environmental laws and regulations apply to the [Catawba Indian Nation] and Reservation and are fully enforceable by all relevant state and local agencies and authorities.” The CIN also retains authority to impose regulations applying higher environmental standards to the Reservation than those imposed by state law or local governing bodies, in accordance with the Settlement Act.

## **List of Subjects in 40 CFR Part 52**

Environmental protection, Air pollution control, Incorporation by reference, Intergovernmental relations, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Volatile organic compounds.

Dated: September 22, 2021.

John Blevins,  
*Acting Regional Administrator,*  
*Region 4.*

For the reasons stated in the preamble, the EPA amends 40 CFR part 52 as follows:

## **PART 52 – APPROVAL AND PROMULGATION OF IMPLEMENTATION PLANS**

1. The authority citation for part 52 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 42 U.S.C. 7401 *et seq.*

### **Subpart PP – South Carolina**

2. In § 52.2120, amend the table in paragraph (c) by revising the entry for “*Standard No. 2*” to read as follows:

#### **§52.2120 Identification of plan.**

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(c) \* \* \*

EPA-Approved South Carolina Regulations

<b>State citation</b>	<b>Title/subject</b>	<b>State effective date</b>	<b>EPA approval date</b>	<b>Explanation</b>
**	**	*	*	*
<i>Standard No. 2</i>	Ambient Air Quality Standards	4/24/2020	[Insert date of publication in FEDERAL REGISTER], [Insert citation of publication]	
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[FR Doc. 2021-21047 Filed: 9/29/2021 8:45 am; Publication Date: 9/30/2021]